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7 July 1967

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director for Central Intelligence
Deputy Director for Science and Technology
Director of Reconnaissance

SUBJECT: The NRP

1. As our meeting with the DCI on the subject of the NRO ended in some slight confusion, it seemed to me it might be helpful to record what is at least my impression of what we decided to do. Attached is a memorandum for the record for this purpose. It would not surprise me to be told that this impression is quite inaccurate.

25X1

2. In connection with the general problem of planning and programming in the NRO, you will remember that I talked at one point to [redacted] about measures to improve arrangements for joint planning for NRP activities. My objective was to establish some sort of flexible and reasonably informal framework within which the DNRO or his senior representatives could be kept abreast of substantive intelligence needs and requirements, and representatives of the intelligence community, familiar with these needs, could be kept abreast of technical potentialities and developments. Part of the objective would be to ensure that appropriate levels of the NRO and the intelligence community are kept informed of the status of any technical or substantive studies which are undertaken in the context of the NRP. The group which I had in mind would be responsible for monitoring existing studies but also for seeing that appropriate studies or examinations are initiated if there appears to be some need for them.

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3. I am attaching copies of the draft proposed correspondence between Flax and the DCI which were designed to accomplish the purposes which I have suggested above. It may be worthwhile to give this proposal further consideration at this time. During our last conversation on the subject, it was [redacted] thought that a useful planning group of the

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character suggested by Mr. Flax would be better constituted if it included, instead of USIB committee representatives, somebody like [redacted] from NSA, possibly Dr. Proctor from CIA, and conceivably General Taylor from NIPE. Some appropriate representatives of S&T, DIA and General Berg would seem necessary to round out the representation.

/s/ John A. Bross

JOHN A. BROSS
D/DCI/NIPE

Attachments

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[redacted]

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7 July 1967

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Discussion of the NRP

1. During the course of a discussion in the DCT's office this morning concerning the future of CIA relations with the NRO, it was generally agreed that Carl Duckett would prepare memoranda as follows:

a. A list of significant points at issue between CIA and the DNRO and his staff and/or components involved in the operation of the NRO (other than the CIA). It was generally agreed, I believe, that it would be useful to have a list of these issues (the ) etc.), together with recommendations as to what the proper solution of the problem is and the best manner to achieve this solution. This list and recommendations would presumably be approved by the DDS&T, Mr. Sheldon and Admiral Taylor.

25X1

b. A list of points to be covered in a briefing of the Deputy Secretary of Defense covering CIA interests in programs in the NRP.

c. A list of Agency items appropriate for an early meeting of the Executive Committee of the NRO. This list would also presumably be subject to review and approval by Mr. Sheldon and Admiral Taylor.

2. The undersigned is supposed to arrange a briefing of Mr. Nitse after internal agreement concerning the subjects most appropriate for such a briefing.

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3. Mr. Sheldon and/or Mr. Duckett are to arrange for a session for to discuss those issues identified as a result of i.a. above as requiring some review and positive action in the NRO.

/s/ John A. Bross

JOHN A. BROSS
D/DCI/NIPE

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Next 1 Page(s) In Document Exempt

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Terms of Reference
for the
Coordinating Group for Reconnaissance Planning

- a. To effect the coordination and exchange of information between the USIB and its constituent organizations and the NRO and its constituent organizations, as necessary to assure joint planning and action on emerging overhead reconnaissance problems of the NRP, which involve closely related consideration of the R&D, operations, and requirements.
- b. To identify and make available, on request, for planning studies initiated by the USIB or the NRO, competent and authoritative representation from collection, exploitation, or requirements organizations, as appropriate.
- c. To periodically review the status of major planning activity in the area of overhead reconnaissance under way in the NRO and the USIB, and their constituent organizations, and to advise the organization responsible for the study on the adequacy of the scope, the desirability of additional participation or the need for consideration of additional planning factors.
- d. To recommend to the NRO or the USIB the initiation of studies necessary to meet the overall planning needs of the intelligence community in the area of overhead reconnaissance.

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May 12, 1967

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Dear Al,

I have examined your letter on the Coordination Group for Reconnaissance Planning and the Terms of Reference. I do agree that such a group offers the prospect of improving the interface with the USIB. There has been an increased flow of communication between the NRO and the Board in the last year or so and I think this new activity should strengthen our relationship.

The membership you suggest for this group seems adequate with the proviso that any ^{intell} Agency should be responsive to a request for assistance.

I do want to say that a problem of great concern, particularly in the area of reconnaissance, is requirements. It seems to me that because of our formal machinery we tend on occasion to define requirements so rigidly that the costs of meeting those requirements are disproportionate to the importance of achieving the totality of the requirement. Accordingly, I hope that one of the important effects of the work of such a group would be to find ways to apprise the Board of the options which might be available, some of which would not be as complete in producing results but would

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be materially less expensive. The margin of loss in certain cases might not be as critical as was first expected.

I propose to make available copies of our correspondence to the USIB for its information. Please be in touch with the chairmen of the COMOR and SIGINT Committee, whom I am requesting to represent the Board, whenever you are ready to proceed with the Coordination Group for Reconnaissance Planning.

Sincerely,

Richard Helms

The Honorable Alexander H. Flax
Director, National Reconnaissance Office
Department of Defense
Washington, D. C.

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